

Attorney's Docket No. 005699-512

Application No.: 10/043,659

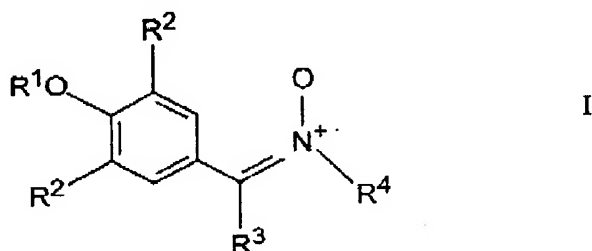
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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

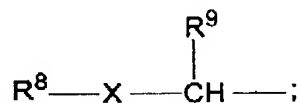
**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for treating neuropathic pain in a patient comprising administering an effective neuropathic pain-treating dose of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I:

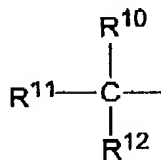


wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is



each R<sup>2</sup> is independently selected from a group of the formula:



R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl and aryl;

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$R^4$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl;

$R^8$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl;

$R^9$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkenyl, substituted alkenyl, alkynyl, substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and substituted cycloalkenyl; or  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  can be joined to form an alkylene or substituted alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms;

$R^{10}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower cycloalkyl; or  $R^1$  and  $R^{10}$  can be joined to form an alkylene, substituted alkylene,  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-S(O)-$  or  $-S(O)_2-$  group;

$R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl and lower cycloalkyl; or  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  can be joined to form an alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms; and

$X$  is oxygen, sulfur,  $-S(O)-$  or  $-S(O)_2-$ , and

$W$  is oxygen or sulfur; or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

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Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein  $\text{W}$   $\text{X}$  is oxygen.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 2 wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 3 wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl and cycloalkyl.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 5 wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, *n*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, 3-thiomethylpropyl, 3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-yl, cyclohexyl, 4-trifluoromethylbenzyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl.

Claims 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein  $\text{X}$  is oxygen;  $\text{R}^9$  is hydrogen; and  $\text{R}^8$  is alkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

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Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 11 wherein  $R^8$  is selected from the group consisting of methyl and methoxyethyl.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are methyl.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13 wherein  $R^{10}$ ,  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are methyl.

Claims 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

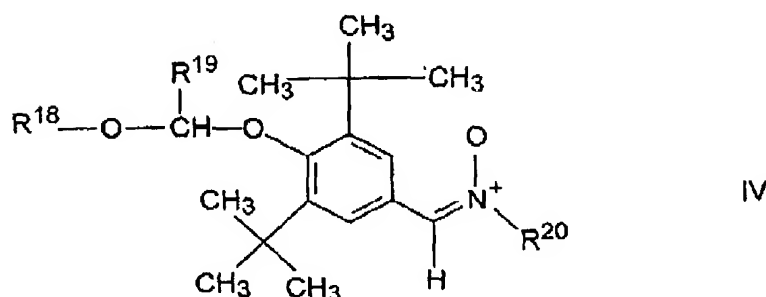
Claim 22 (Canceled).

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Claim 23 (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is of formula

IV:



wherein

R<sup>18</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl;

R<sup>19</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl; or R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>19</sup> can be joined to form an alkylene or substituted alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms;

R<sup>20</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl and substituted cycloalkyl; or pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of Claim 23 wherein R<sup>19</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>18</sup> is alkyl or alkoxyalkyl.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of Claim 24 wherein R<sup>18</sup> is methyl or methoxyethyl.

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Claim 26 (Original): The method of Claim 23 wherein R<sup>20</sup> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl and cycloalkyl.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of Claim 26 wherein R<sup>20</sup> is selected from the group consisting of methyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, 1-hydroxy-2-methylprop-2-yl, *n*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, 3-thiomethylpropyl, 3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-yl, cyclohexyl, 4-trifluoromethylbenzyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzyl.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

$\alpha$ -(4-isobutanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -(4-*n*-butanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -(4-*n*-pentanoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -(4-propionoyloxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -(4-acetoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3,4,5-trimethoxybenzylnitrone

$\alpha$ -[4-(ethylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -[4-(*n*-propylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -[4-(*n*-butylaminocarbonyloxy)-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -[4-(2-ethoxycarbonyl)ethylaminocarbonyloxy]-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -[4-(2-ethoxycarbonyl)methylaminocarbonyloxy]-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

$\alpha$ -(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitrone

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$\alpha$ -[4-(2-methoxy)ethoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl]-*N*-*tert*-butylnitronone  
 $\alpha$ -(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3-(thiomethoxy)but-1-ynitronone  
 $\alpha$ -(4-methoxymethoxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-3-thiomethoxypropylnitronone  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-octylnitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-*N*-hexylnitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-*N*-*tert*-butylnitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-(1,1-dimethyl-2-hydroxyethyl)nitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-(1,1-dimethylpropyl)nitronone~~  
 ~~$\alpha$ -(4-hydroxy-3,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-*N*-(1-methylethyl)nitronone~~  
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Canceled).

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Claim 34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Canceled).